

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

January 21, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

December 21 - Jan 25 Rocket Into Reading

January 14-January 25 MAP Testing

January 21 No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

January 30 Math - Unit 8 test

## Dear Families,

### It's Cold Outside!

Please remember that we go out for recess unless it is below 0. When the wind chill is below 20 we have a warming center, but everyone needs to go for at least 10 minutes. Please be sure to send your children with hats, gloves, pants, winter coats.

### Guilder Activity

Students will have their second Guilder activity on January 25th. Your child's homeroom teacher will be in contact with you this week if it looks like your child has not earned enough Guilders to participate. Look for more information to come home regarding this in-school activity.

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### Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education, library, and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

**We need parent volunteers to help with leading classes from location to location and with taping the event. Please email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) if you can help!**

**Please check the digital backpack for more information!**

**Art** -[Dale Chihuly](#) is an American glass blower with colorful glass sculptures on display all over the world. We have looked carefully at his artwork and watched several videos on [glass blowing](#). Of course, we cannot blow glass, but we have found an exciting alternative. The results will be on display at Specials Night on 1/14.

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. Unexcused absences will affect your child's grade. If your child does not attend, there will need to do some playing tests for Mrs. Karia during a lunchtime this week or next week.

**Spanish** - We have been learning about the top 100 words used in conversation. We will be starting a new story this week. Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - There will be a mandatory Reading Olympics meeting on Monday starting at 11:30. We will check in to make sure all teams are settled, since there have been a few changes since the winter break! Please don't forget that **Monday, January 14** is specials night. Students will be

sharing the cookbooks they created before the winter holiday. For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>).

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

This week we will be finishing up our unit on Using Your Wits. We will be focusing on visualizing and author's perspective. We will have a spelling and comprehension test of Friday. Next week we will be taking the unit 3 test and starting a new novel study with the historical fiction book Johnny Tremain.

### **Language Arts**

This week in language arts we will teach lessons on keyboarding/computer skills, as well as give students time to practice their typing in class. We will begin a short project focusing on voice using the Preamble to the Constitution.

### **Math**

In math this week, we will continue to work with fraction multiplication. We will learn two methods to multiply mixed numbers, either converting the mixed number to an improper fraction, or using partial products. As usual, there will be a quiz on Friday covering this week's materials. Our unit test is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30. We will review for the test in class and students will have a study sheet from which to study.

### **Science**

This week in science we will complete our lifeboat experiment and graph the results. Analyzing the varying capacity of boats of different sizes will allow students to predict the capacity of a boat not tested. Students will need to complete pages 22 and 24 in their variables workbook for homework, due Thursday. Our Science Fair projects continue with a deadline this Friday. Students must provide their hypothesis and procedures by January 25.

### **Social Studies**

This week students will complete an in-class, group project where they select a colony and research it in greater depth. Students will then present their information to the class in order to teach their classmates something about their chosen colony they did not know before. ***For this project, if you have any used magazines which you would like to donate (not get back), we would greatly appreciate them.***

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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